

Geographic Distribution

The low- and moderate-income population is widely distributed throughout the El Paso community, and the potential for infill housing and non-housing community development exists in all areas. Existing facilities that could be utilized by low-income households, such as foreclosed federal properties and rental units, are also dispersed throughout the city. Parks and other public facilities may also serve areas throughout the city where the low-income and minority populations are widely dispersed. Assisted housing units are located throughout the community as well. Minority populations are found in nearly all areas of the city as portrayed in the Market Analysis and Needs Assessment sections of the Consolidated Plan for 2005-2009. For this reason, the City has not assigned a priority rating per se to any particular neighborhood for the development of affordable housing projects. Low-income persons may need to locate in a particular neighborhood in order to be closer to employment or may wish to live in a specific area because of schools, churches, etc., and this choice should be available to them.

Certain federal programs do require that projects support neighborhood revitalization efforts, which would primarily be focused on Community Development eligible areas. When such program requirements are in place, the location of assisted housing and non-housing related activities are somewhat more restricted, but still encompass a large area. For the Rental Rehabilitation Program, priority was assigned to neighborhoods in need of revitalization but with the possibility of maintaining Fair Market Rents. These neighborhoods continue to be assigned priority for rehabilitation of rental properties, but this does not exclude properties located in other neighborhoods. The neighborhoods designated for this priority are South El Paso, Sunset Heights, Magoffin, Piedras Alameda, and Ysleta.

Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities

The Continuum of Care Plan, which was developed by the El Paso Coalition for the Homeless, is strongly supported by the City of El Paso. The Plan is described in the Strategic Plan Section of the Consolidated Plan for 2005-2009. The City utilizes funding from several sources in contributing to Continuum of Care activities, specifically designed to address the issue of homelessness.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Overall:

Economic development and self-sustainability is a goal held prominently by the City of El Paso and its public, private, and non-profit partners. As such, CDBG Social Service funding priorities will recognize a holistic and results-oriented approach to attaining that goal.

Homeless:

Support the work of the Homeless Coalition in their mission to provide a seamless continuum of care with a strong focus on safety net services and eventual independence through projects that:

- Provide safety net services including emergency shelter, transitional housing, special needs housing, and supportive services for basic needs such as food, transportation and health care.
- Offer job training and preparation, advocacy and supportive services in association with obtaining and sustaining employment and the achievement of economic security.
- Enhance housing and employment goals through supplementary programs in keeping with the Homeless Coalition's continuum of care, such as legal services, educational services, and advocacy.

Values for Proposal Consideration:

CDBG Homeless and Emergency Shelter Collaborative Values:

Collaborative values reflect elements that contribute to the integration of diverse projects in providing continuums of care and comprehensive community services. Additional consideration will be given to projects that:

1. Stimulate and enhance the lives of a diverse population of clients served by the collaborative.
2. Create partnerships that maximize resources and enhance services.
3. Promote maximum independence for clients.
4. Enhance quality of life for clients and produce beneficial outcomes for clients.
5. Achieve cost-effective use of resources.
6. Fulfill community needs.
7. Complement continuum of care of the collaborative.
8. Encompass adequate geographic coverage for the collaborative.
9. Ensure services to clients who would otherwise not be served or underserved.
10. Show that withdrawing the project would have a significant impact on the target population/clients.
11. Demonstrate the relationship between the project proposal and the collaborative mission.

Project Values

Project values reflect traits deemed valuable in terms of individual projects. Additional consideration will be given to those projects that:

1. Demonstrate a project history of successful implementation and budget management.
2. Present a budget appropriate to the proposed program.
3. Serve a significant number of clients and/or have a significant impact
4. Focus on care in the least restrictive, most inclusive environment.
5. Are providing a cost effective service.

6. Demonstrate feasibility and can demonstrate result-oriented outcomes.
7. Show a close relationship of direct services funding to the total request.
8. Clearly define population to be served and geographic area of coverage.
9. Incorporate the service as part of an integrated continuum of care.

Agency Values

Agency values reflect components of management capacity and fiscal responsibility. Additional consideration will be given to projects submitted by agencies that:

1. Commit adequate resources, infrastructure and capacity to support the project (past and present).
2. Demonstrate responsible fiscal and project management.
3. Show capacity, ability and/or history to meet contract obligations.
4. Demonstrate economic viability and efficiency.
5. Have planned and/or implemented a system to document client eligibility.
6. Document client satisfaction.
7. Attend meetings in compliance with collaborative rules and participate in applicable community coalitions.
8. Demonstrate sound fiscal history and annual audited financial statements
9. Demonstrate feasibility and impact of proposed outcomes and cost effectiveness of the program including leveraging of funds with CDBG dollars.

Specific Values Developed by CDBG Homeless and Emergency Shelter Services Collaborative

Additional collaborative values: Membership in and at least 50% attendance at the El Paso Coalition for the Homeless meetings and a demonstrated history of providing services to the homeless populations.

The following ten 31st Year CDBG projects will benefit homeless populations or reduce the risk of homelessness:

1. Center Against Family Violence: Emergency Shelter for Survivors of Domestic Violence
2. Centro de Salud San Vicente: Homeless Health Clinic
3. Child Crisis Center of El Paso: Emergency Shelter and Crisis Nursery
4. El Paso Center for Children: Transitional Living Center for Homeless Teen Mothers and their Children
5. La Posada Home, Inc.: La Posada, Inc.
6. Project Vida Inc.: Homelessness Recovery and Prevention
7. Project Vida Inc.: Transitional Living Center Supportive Housing
8. Sin Fronteras Organizing Project: Centro de los Trabajadores Agricolas Fronterizos
9. The Salvation Army: Transitional Living Center for Homeless Families with Children
10. YWCA of El Paso Del Norte Region: YWCA Sara McKnight Transitional Living Center for Women and their Children

A total of \$379,658 in 31st Year CDBG funds are being allocated to these social service projects that will benefit the homeless or reduce the incidence of homelessness. The activities funded will cover a wide range of Continuum of Care services including intake, case management, emergency shelter, transitional shelter, health care, supportive services, and permanent housing in an effort to reduce the number of homeless individuals within the City.

Emergency Shelter Grant

The Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Collaborative, which operates in the same way as the CDBG Social Service Collaboratives met on January 11, 2005 and January 18, 2005 to hear proposals from the various agencies applying for ESG funds and to develop a budget recommendation to the Community Development Steering Committee. Each ESG applicant was provided the opportunity to discuss the nature of their programs and their reasoning for the amount of money requested. When reviewing proposals, the Collaborative considered their Mission Statement, Needs Assessment and Value Criterion (which follows) that had been formally adopted by the Collaborative at the start of the 31st Year planning process.

ESG Collaborative's Mission Statement, Needs Assessment and Value Criterion:

Mission: The Mission of the Collaborative is to recommend the use of Emergency Shelter Grant funds for programs that work to prevent and eliminate homelessness through the provision of quality shelter and supportive services.

Needs Assessment: The perceived needs of the target population include, but may not be limited to, the need for short and/or long term shelter, child care and education, job readiness assistance, employment assistance, food, legal assistance, transportation, clothing, physical and mental health care. ESG Collaborative commits to develop additional funding resources

Value Criterion: The values considered to evaluate funding project proposals will be of equal weight and include:

- The number of clients served.
- The cost effectiveness of the project (with special consideration for the effectiveness of the program as a whole, including all forms of funding and programming, as well as the community development project and overall goal of the Community Development office).
- Relationship between the project proposal and the collaborative mission.
- Continuum of services.
- Agency capacity or ability to meet contract obligations.
- Past performance in community and/or in other Emergency Shelter Grant projects.
- Administrative costs vs. direct costs.
- Outcomes of the projects.

- Participation in the El Paso Coalition for the Homeless and other Community Homeless Collaboratives.

In addition, the Collaborative also considered the reduction in ESG entitlement funding in their budget deliberations.

The categorical distribution of funds recommended by the ESG Collaborative to the CD Steering Committee, and subsequently adopted by the El Paso City Council, is as follows:

\$ 95,186 – Essential Services
243,824 – Operating Costs
<u>35,374</u> – Homelessness Prevention
\$374,384

The distribution of the Emergency Shelter Grant funds in fiscal year 2005 to the following 11 agencies will benefit a wide range of homeless populations, as described below:

- Center Against Family Violence (serving victims of domestic abuse) - \$73,070 (\$6,000 for homeless prevention and \$67,070 for operating expenses)
- Child Crisis Center (serving victims (children) of neglect or domestic abuse) - \$31,036 (operating expenses)
- El Paso Center for Children (transitional program for teenage girls with children) - \$31,897 (operating expenses)
- El Paso Community Mental Health & Mental Retardation Center (serving mentally ill homeless) - \$13,488 (\$13,488 for homeless prevention)
- La Posada Home, Inc. (provides transitional shelter for homeless women and children) - \$13,905 (\$13,905 for essential services)
- Opportunity Center for the Homeless (provides day shelter for homeless individuals and families) - \$86,490 (\$51,247 for essential services, \$12,886 for homeless prevention and \$22,357 for operating expenses)
- Project Vida (transitional program for homeless families with children) - \$21,120 (\$12,865 for essential services, and \$8,255 for operating expenses)
- Rescue Mission (serving homeless individuals and homeless families with children) - \$13,204 (\$13,204 for operating expenses)
- Sin Fronteras Organizing Project (providing shelter and services for migrant farm workers) – \$24,729 (\$17,169 for essential services and \$7,560 for operating expenses)
- The Salvation Army (serving homeless families with children) - \$52,487 (\$52,487 for operating expenses)
- YWCA Transitional Living Center (serving homeless single women and single mothers with children) - \$12,958 (\$9,958 for operating expenses and \$3,000 for homeless prevention)

Matching Funds for ESG Grantees

Each subrecipient in the amount of the respective grant award for fiscal year 2005 will provide matching funds for the fiscal year 2005 ESG funds. A provision for the match requirement is included in the contracts between the City and the subrecipients of ESG funds.

Homelessness Prevention

Based on the recommendation of the ESG collaborative, the City has allocated \$35,374 for homelessness prevention activities under the FY 2005 ESG Program. In addition, the entire range of CDBG social service activities are considered as homelessness prevention activities, since the projects provide a wide range of services designed to stabilize individuals and families. The stabilization of families and individuals helps prevent or alleviate the type of social and economic distress that can result in homelessness. The majority of these social services are provided to persons at 30-percent (30%) of median income or below. In light of the positive impact that these types of services provide to the low- and moderate-income population, the City has historically allocated the maximum amount available for social services under the CDBG Program.

Making the Transition out of Homelessness

Currently, fifteen transitional housing programs and five permanent supportive housing programs (which includes one safe haven facility) are operating in El Paso to serve the homeless and two new transitional living shelters for homeless women and a new shelter-plus care project are in varying stages of development. Most of these are funded under HUD's Continuum of Care (COC) Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and several have been able to operate with other funding sources

The Opportunity Center for the Homeless currently operates three Single Room Occupancy (SRO) facilities and one Safe Haven serving specific populations of homeless men, women and youth. These are the Magoffin Street SRO, a 20-room facility that houses elderly and fragile homeless men and women; the Veterans Transitional Living Center, a 20-room facility specifically designed to address the needs of homeless veterans; the Missouri Street SRO, a facility that houses 39 formerly homeless men, women and youth (18 years and older), and the Magoffin Street Safe Haven facility (20-beds) for very hard to serve chronically homeless men and women. The YWCA's two transitional living centers (Sarah McKnight and Independence House) provide 28 eight apartments for homeless women and their children. In 2005 the Sarah McKnight Transitional Living Center (TLC) is scheduled to open 20 new apartments to double their capacity. In April 2002, HUD renewed funding for The Salvation Army TLC in El Paso and another SHP renewal for this project is being submitted in this year's continuum of care funding cycle. This program provides 11 independent apartments that provide assistance to stabilize previously homeless families and prepare them for independence. The Center for Children administers the Transitional Program for

Homeless Teenage Mothers. This program, which has a capacity for 12 families, is also funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In addition, HUD provided funding to La Posada Home, Inc., a transitional living center that provides transitional shelter for homeless women and children. The Home, which has a capacity to serve 25 people, provides a nurturing environment where the women can become self-sufficient and develop, establish and accomplish long-term healthy goals for themselves and their families on the road to independence. Additionally, the Opportunity Center for the Homeless is in the process of rehabilitating a building to create a new 13-room SRO and Transitional Living Center with capacity for ten, specifically designed to service single homeless women. The Myrtle Avenue SRO and TLC for Chronically Homeless Single Women is on schedule to open in 2005. In the 2004 HUD Continuum of Care funding cycle the Housing Authority of the City of El Paso received funding to open a 20-unit shelter-plus care facility for the chronic homeless, and the Center Against Family Violence received an award to create a special supportive service outreach program to serve clients in transitional living who are victims of domestic violence. These two projects are currently in the development stage.

The projects included in the 2005 COC Application due into HUD in June of this year are five renewals of current HUD-funded projects and six new projects to fund a homeless discharge planning initiative, a shelter plus care project for homeless veterans, two transitional housing/supportive services programs, a child care center for homeless children, a mobile domestic violence advocate program, two legal assistance programs, a mental health outreach team, a Homeless Management Information Program, and a substance abuse recovery transitional living program. All totaled, these COC supported programs and several other funded with varying sources will be able to offer transitional and permanent supportive housing and supportive services to over an averaged 750 homeless men, women, and children. These important projects were also contemplated as a critical component of the Consolidated Plan strategies for providing services to the homeless and are designed to meet critical needs of the homeless in El Paso and fill identified gaps in El Paso's Continuum of Care for the homeless.

The City has also allocated FY 2005 CDBG and ESG funds to strengthen the capacity of homeless agencies to provide direct services that will help assist homeless persons in making the transition to permanent housing and independent living.

Planning to Strengthen Homeless Programs

The Opportunity Center for the Homeless received a third grant extension for \$17,493 in CDBG funds from the City for continuation of its Coalition Capacity Development Project for the Homeless Coalition. This project had originally been funded in the 27th Year CDBG funding cycle for \$50,000 and again in the 28th Year funding cycle for \$55,200. Subsequently, this critical 28th Year planning project was extended three times for a total of \$182,261. For the 31st CDBG Year the Opportunity Center for the Homeless has been awarded 69,762 to continue this most effective project.

The Coalition Capacity Development Project was funded for the purpose of hiring a Homeless Service Planner to help develop and strengthen the Homeless Coalition's capacity to obtain increased HUD funding for services to the homeless. This Planner works under the direction of the Coalition Research and Development Committee made up of Coalition agency representatives that are dedicated to the creation of quality services to the homeless. The project has helped strengthen the community assessment and development process entitled the "Continuum of Care." The "Continuum of Care" details the community's plan to move a homeless person from the streets to self-sufficiency, with the ultimate goal of helping end chronic homelessness.

With the allocation of \$69,972, in the 31st Program Year, the Homeless Coalition will continue developing its capacity to secure and utilize HUD's funding opportunities on a yearly basis by the continued employment of a full-time Homeless Services Planner to assist in maintaining and fine-tuning the ideal "Continuum of Care." This Planner worked extensively in helping create the City's 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness and will also play a major role in the continuing refinement of the Discharge Coordination Policy. During 2005 the Discharge Policy planning emphasis has been in the area of medical institutions, and in 2006 the next area of focus will be the criminal justice system in the El Paso area. The Planner will also continue to provide assistance in the implementation of the HUD required Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

The success of this planning project is reflected in the increased funding received from HUD through the HUD Continuum of Care Grant. Since the first program year of CDBG funding for this planning grant through 2004 the homeless planner position of the Homeless Coalition has enabled El Paso to receive over 10 million dollars in SHP funding. The City of El Paso plans to continue to make the relatively small investment in CDBG funds for this project and will work with the Homeless Coalition to access other sources as well.

Special Needs of Persons Who Are Not Homeless

Special populations that are not homeless, such as persons with disabilities, senior citizens and the frail elderly, persons with HIV/AIDS, and persons with drug addiction require supportive services and affordable housing to improve their quality of life and living conditions. The City has allocated \$314,142 in FY 2005 CDBG social service funding under the category of Elderly and Persons with Disabilities to provide such direct benefit services as meals, case management, attendant services, home repair, job readiness training, volunteer opportunities, protective services, medical care, day care services, and exercise programs in order to address the needs of these populations. The City also supports and encourages applications for housing programs by non-profit agencies that desire to access Federal funds to expand the affordable and supportive housing opportunities for persons with special needs. During this Year's HUD funding cycle two local non-profits plan to submit applications for the Section 202 Program.